

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-6 as to read as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded joint for pipes, comprising a pin (1, 1', 1'') and a box (2, 2', 2''), each having, at at least one end, a respective threaded portion, in which said respective threaded portions are coated with a layer of dry lubricant having a thickness of between 5 ~~mm~~ μm and 30 ~~mm~~ μm and in which a nominal void volume (NVV) of a ~~the~~ space (6, 7) between pin member and box member is sized so that the following formula is satisfied:

$$NVV[cm^3] \leq 4 \times OD[inch]$$

where OD is the nominal outer diameter of said pipes.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded joint according to Claim 1, wherein the nominal ~~empty~~ void volume NVV of the space (6, 7) is sized so that the following formula is satisfied:

$$\frac{NVV [cm^3]}{OD [inch] \times \sqrt{Wt [mm]}} \leq 1$$

where Wt is the thickness of the wall of said pipes ~~tubes~~.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded joint according to Claim 2, wherein the area of ~~a~~ the free space (5, 6) between the threads engaged in the section of the joint considered on an axial plane is less than 0.4 ~~0.4~~ mm²/pitch.

4. **(Original)** A threaded joint according to Claim 1, wherein each of said male and female elements is provided with at least one seal element.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded joint according to Claim 4, wherein the pin has two outer threaded portions (12, 13) having a frusto-conical shape, which are axially staggered and separated by a shoulder (9'), and the box has two inner threaded portions (10, 11) having a frusto-conical shape, which are axially staggered and separated by a shoulder (9''), which acts as a detent during ~~screwing~~ making up.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A threaded joint according to Claim 4, wherein the pin has an outer threaded portion of ~~frusto/conical~~ frusto-conical shape and the box has an inner threaded portion having a ~~frusto/conical~~ frusto-conical shape, and each of the pin and box members is provided with ~~of~~ a shoulder set at at least one respective end of the said threaded portions, adapted to act as abutment during making up.